



**U.S. Department of Justice  
U.S. Attorney's Office  
Western District of Texas**

**Johnny Sutton, U.S. Attorney**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Shana Jones, Special Assistant  
Daryl Fields, Public Information Officer  
(210) 384-7440

December 19, 2005

**EL PASO MAN ARRESTED BY F.B.I. FOR ALLEGED ANTHRAX THREATS**

**United States Attorney Johnny Sutton and Federal Bureau of Investigation Special Agent in Charge Manuel E. Mora** announced the arrest of and indictment against an El Paso man for allegedly making threats using the biological agent anthrax.

F.B.I. agents this morning arrested 23-year-old Luis Omar Cenicerros at his residence without incident. A federal grand jury on Wednesday returned an indictment charging Cenicerros with two counts of threatening the use of a weapon of mass destruction. Upon conviction, Cenicerros faces up to life in federal prison and a maximum \$250,000 fine per count.

The indictment alleges that on June 10, 2005, Cenicerros deposited or caused to be deposited a threatening communication inside an authorized depository for returned books at the Clardy Fox public library. The communication was inside a manila envelope with the word "ANTHRAX" written on it in large red letters. The indictment also alleges that on the following day, Cenicerros repeated the above mentioned scheme at the Acosta Recreation Center. While no anthrax was discovered at either site, the alleged activity forced a temporary closure of the facilities as well as the summoning of police, rescue and hazardous material teams.

Cenicerros is scheduled to have his initial appearance tomorrow in El Paso at 2:00pm before United States Magistrate Judge Richard Mesa. This case was investigated by the Joint Terrorism Task Force and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Assistant United States Attorney Greg McDonald is prosecuting this case on behalf of the government.

**An indictment is a formal accusation of criminal conduct, not evidence of guilt. The defendant is presumed innocent unless and until convicted through due process of law.**

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